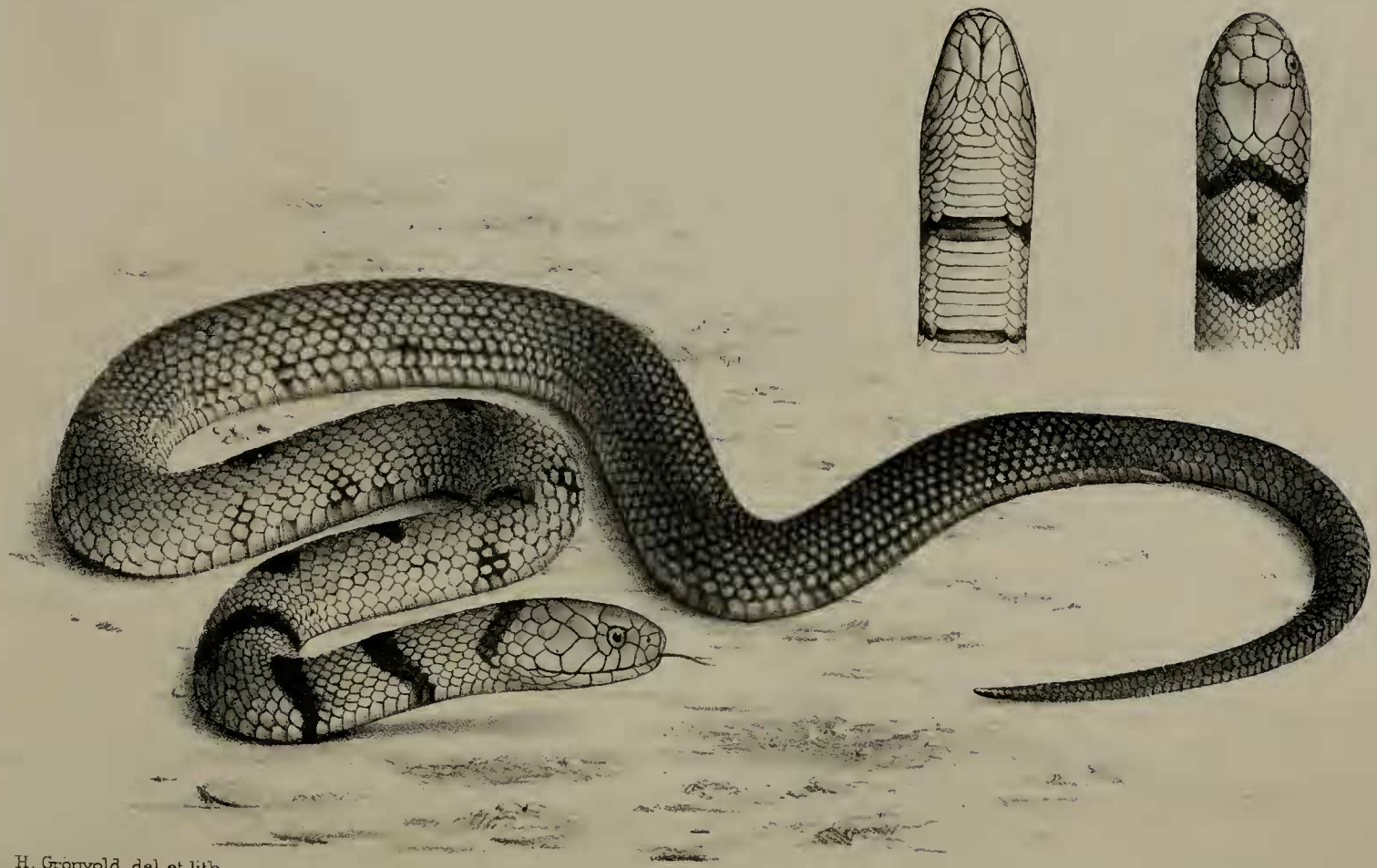

H. Grönvold del. et lith.

BOULENGERINA STORMSI.

Mintern Bros. imp.

drops it carefully over the thorns in the ring, which being close together hold it up, so that soon nothing can be seen of the thorns. The use of the dried dung is, to hold up the sand which hides the trap. The hemp rope, now made into a slip-noose, is put round the top ring, and the stick to which it is attached buried in the sand. The whole is now carefully covered with sand. One of the shikaries laid his traps so successfully that it was almost impossible to find one again unless a Gazelle was caught in it. The marks like those of a Gazelle made by the fingers over the trap add to the deception. It is curious to remark that a Gazelle will rarely walk over an impression left by either beast or man in the sand.

When the Gazelle comes in the evening to feed, its foot slips through the top ring in the centre where the thorns meet, and so to the bottom of the hole. The top ring is now fixed round the Gazelle's leg, at the height of the depth of the hole, the spiky thorns entering the skin. This ring also holds up the hemp rope, which the Gazelle, in endeavouring to kick off the thorny ring that pricks it, draws tight, generally over the knee.

The Gazelle starts off, dragging after it the date-stick, attached to the rope. The swinging stick makes it impossible for the animal to get away at any pace, as, twisting round one leg or the other, it throws the Gazelle to the ground continually.

The spoor of the trapped Gazelle with the marks of the swinging stick are easily found, and the animal tracked down until in sight, when a trained greyhound will soon catch and hold it until his master comes up.

During November and December the Gazelles are caught when fawns by trained hounds, and this is the simplest method; but it can only be practised during two months, as it takes a very good dog to catch a Gazelle when more than this age.

During the eight days I was in the desert, though unsuccessful in trapping any, I saw several very fine specimens of Loder's Gazelle.

6. On the Type Specimen of *Boulengerina stormsi*, an Elapoid Snake from Central Africa. By G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S.

[Received November 26, 1895.]

(Plate XLVIII.)

In the year 1886 M. L. Dollo established a new genus of Elapoid Snakes which he did me the honour of naming after me *Boulengerina*. The single specimen of *Boulengerina stormsi* formed part of a small collection from Lake Tanganyika, presented to the Brussels Museum by Capt. Storms, an officer in the service of the Congo State. The Snake was described very shortly, and although the type specimen had passed through my hands before, I felt desirous of re-examining it in order to fix its correct position in the system. My friend M. Dollo having, with his usual kindness, entrusted the specimen to me for description,

I have much pleasure in bringing it before the notice of the Society.

There can be no doubt the genus is valid, and perhaps more nearly allied to the Australian forms associated under *Hoplocephalus* and *Diemenia* than to any of the African genera. Among the latter, it comes nearest to *Elapsoidea*, which differs in having slightly oblique scales and a very short tail. It differs from *Naia* in the disposition of the scales, which are not oblique, and in the further extension forwards of the palatine bones; from *Walterinnesia* in the latter character, and in the position of the nostril, which is not bordered by the internasal shield.

The genus and species may be defined as follows :—

Boulengerina.

Dollo, Bull. Mus. Belg. iv. 1886, p. 159.

Maxillary bone extending forwards as far as the palatine, with a pair of large grooved fangs, followed by three or four small solid teeth; mandibular teeth, anterior longest. Head not distinct from neck; eye small, with round pupil; nostril between two nasals; no loreal. Body cylindrical; scales smooth, without pits, in 21 rows; ventrals rounded. Tail moderate; subcaudals in two rows.

Boulengerina stormsi. (Plate XLVIII.)

Dollo, *l. c.*

Head scarcely depressed; snout rounded, not prominent, without canthus; eye scarcely longer than its distance from the mouth. Rostral nearly as deep as broad, the portion visible from above measuring half its distance from the frontal; internasals shorter and a little broader than the præfrontals, extensively in contact with the præocular; frontal small, slightly longer than broad, as broad as the supraocular, as long as its distance from the rostral, slightly more than half the length of the parietals; posterior nasal in contact with the single præocular; two postoculars; temporals 1+2; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye, fourth, fifth, and sixth in contact with the lower postocular, third and sixth deepest; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are much longer than the posterior. Scales not oblique, in 21 rows. Ventrals 193; anal entire; subcaudals 67. Brown above; four black cross-bars on the nape and neck, the second and third forming complete rings, followed by five irregular black spots; further back, the body darker brown with the scales black-edged; tail black; belly white anteriorly, brown further back, with the shields black-edged, blackish brown towards the tail.

The specimen measures 240 millim., in which the tail enters for 85. It is young, as indicated by the umbilical fissure; the species therefore reaches a size at least equal to that of the Indian Cobra.